

CLAIMS

1. (amended) A polytetrafluoroethylene block-shaped molded article having a melt viscosity and a block deformation amount contained within a polygonal region surrounded by a straight line A:  $x = 1.0 \times 10^9$  (melt viscosity of  $1.0 \times 10^9$  poise), a straight line B:  $x = 2.5 \times 10^{10}$  (melt viscosity of  $2.5 \times 10^{10}$  poise), a straight line C1:  $y = 7.0$  (block deformation amount of 7.0%), a straight line D1:  $y = 0$  (block deformation amount of 0%), and a straight line E1:  $y = -8.7 \log_{10}(x) + 91$  in a graph with an x-axis being a common logarithm of the melt viscosity (poise) at 380°C of polytetrafluoroethylene and a y-axis being the block deformation amount (%) which is a weight loss until a stable film or sheet can be cut from the molded article,

wherein the polytetrafluoroethylene block-shaped molded article is obtained by compression-molding and baking a polytetrafluoroethylene powder obtained by suspension polymerization.

2. The molded article according to claim 1, wherein the melt viscosity at 380°C of the molded article is at most  $2 \times 10^{10}$  poise.

3. The molded article according to claim 1, wherein the block deformation amount is more than 0.7%.

4. The molded article according to claim 1, wherein the polytetrafluoroethylene block-shaped molded article is cylindrical and a height of the molded article is at least 800 mm.

5. (amended) A method of producing a polytetrafluoroethylene block-shaped molded article, comprising inserting a polytetrafluoroethylene preform obtained by compression-molding a polytetrafluoroethylene powder, into a pipe in a state in which a symmetry axis of the preform is horizontal; placing the pipe on two rolls spaced apart in a horizontal direction; and heating the preform to bake the preform while rotating the pipe and the preform by rotating at least one roll to transmit a rotation of the roll to the pipe, whereby giving the polytetrafluoroethylene block-shaped molded article.

6. The method according to claim 5, wherein a load per unit area at the

time of baking the preform is at most  $100 \text{ g/cm}^2$ .

7. The method according to claim 5, wherein an expansion of the height of the block-shaped molded article which is generated at the time of producing the polytetrafluoroethylene block-shaped molded article from the preform is at least 6%.

add  
B1  
ADD C2